

1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment

Regulars, by God!

Volume 1, Issue 4

April 15, 2006

FROM THE COMMANDER

Happy Easter from FOB FALCON in southern Baghdad! We have completed our fourth month here and continue to improve every day. Our Soldiers are doing very well and I am incredibly proud of each one of them and what they have accomplished. I am convinced that there is no unit in the 4th Infantry Division that is executing such a diversity of missions and achieving such great successes as the Regulars are in our area of operations. We are increasing the tempo of combat operations against the insurgents and our collective efforts are reducing their abilities to operate in our area of operations.

In our area, the number of insurgent actions continues to fall as a result of our efforts. Although we still have enemy contact, there is a significant reduction in what the enemy is able to do. We have killed and detained insurgents, destroyed their weapons and munitions stores, impacted their ability to move freely, and eroded their bases of support within the population. Of note, we have conducted six air assault operations in the past four weeks – the most air assaults of any battalion in all of Iraq. These operations allow us to quickly strike at enemy locations without warning and without traveling roads that may be mined by the insurgents. As before, our Soldiers have earned their Combat Infantryman's Badges, Combat Action Badges, Combat Medical Badges, and, unfortunately, some Purple Hearts as well.

We attempt to conduct very precise combat operations and cause minimal disruption to the Iraqi civilians while massing overwhelming combat power on known enemy forces. When we detain an insurgent, we must collect all of the evidence according to a very specific procedure to ensure that the detention will be supported by the Iraqi Justice system. It sometimes seems excessive and is frequently very similar to police work, but when done correctly it ensures that the enemy will be sent to long-term detention facilities such as Abu Ghraib. Due to our Soldiers' professionalism and attention to detail, our rate of getting insurgents imprisoned in long-term facilities is 50% higher than the Brigade and Division averages.

This past month, we discovered significantly more Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) before they detonated than were detonated against us. In general terms, most units find about half of the IEDs before they detonate in their area. We are far ahead of that rate and it is a testament to our Soldiers and their abilities. The local people are starting to call us and tell us where some of the devices are – a significant step that shows we are making inroads into the community.

Our projects to rebuild the infrastructure of our area continue and are an enduring focus for us here. For example, we are currently rebuilding eleven schools in our area – one of those schools was built in 1946 and has seen no significant repairs in the past 60 years. That particular school houses 600 students and they have been without electricity, sanitation, water, and basic supplies for years. We are changing that. The Iraqi people in our area are starting to believe that the coalition is not an occupying force and that we want to help them rebuild their lives. As a result,

the insurgents are shunned in many areas because they are viewed as inhibiting progress and the amount of information we receive about insurgent activity from the people continues to rise.

Although we suffered fewer wounded this month than previous months, we lost Private First Class Sean Tharp of B Company to enemy fire on March 28, 2006. We held the Memorial Ceremony on FOB FALCON a few days later where we said goodbye to him and I was happy to see the unit truly support each other during that time. I spoke to Sean's mother shortly after his death to offer her our condolences for her loss and she told me how much Sean loved being a Soldier in B Company and how much he wanted to be here with his brothers – it is where he felt he belonged. Because he touched our lives and lived as a Regular, I know that he will never be alone and he will never be forgotten.

We are all very proud of each one of our Soldiers that reenlisted this past month – we had another 18 great Americans raise their right hand and recite the oath. Any reenlistment is special and shows a commitment to our Army and to the nation, but reenlistment in a combat zone is even more distinctive and shows that our Soldiers knowingly and willingly accept the risks and hardships associated with our service. It is an affirmation that they are willing to fight and die for the ideals of our nation. I want to thank all of the family members of those who have reenlisted as well. Thank you for continuing to support your loved one as he continues to serve – you all have sacrificed as well and I thank you for your commitment and support.

As some of you may know by now, we will likely move from FOB FALCON to another location in Iraq in the coming months. When it occurs, it will be a planned operation and in response to a need for our forces to operate elsewhere based on the threat that exists in that area. Our address will change, but we will ensure that the Family Readiness Group has the required information at the appropriate time.

If you have any concerns or need assistance, do not hesitate to contact the Rear Detachment Commander. His duty is to assist our loved ones in the states while we conduct our mission here and he is doing a great job for all of us. The Rear Detachment's contact information can be found on the last page of this newsletter.

The Regulars continue to operate at a high standard and I am humbled to be associated with them—I consider it a privilege to lead them each day. I cannot overstate how important your support is to us and I cannot tell you thank you enough for what you have done. Our Family Readiness Group leaders continue to take care of the home front and, without them, we would fail. Please keep all of the Regulars in your thoughts and prayers.

Regulars, by God! Deeds, Not Words.

— Lieutenant Colonel Craig A. Osborne (Regular 6)



Omar, an Interpreter, and Lieutenant Colonel Osborne with a Following of Local Children in Askaniyah During a Dismounted Patrol

FROM THE COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR

Hello Folks,

Yet another month has come and gone and we are officially one-third complete with our deployment. It has been another month of exceptional performance by the Soldiers of the “Regulars, By God” battalion here in Baghdad, Iraq. Again, I am incredibly pleased and proud of all of them.

We gauge our effectiveness here on two categories: effectiveness against the enemy and effects of our efforts in support of the population and government. As you read this newsletter further, you will find more details about each of these subjects discussed within each company’s column. But, let me just take a moment to provide a quick summary:

Effectiveness against the enemy: in our own assessment – excellent. Our companies, although executing varied missions, each contribute to weakening the enemy’s efforts to dominate the population and inflict their influence in our area of operations. Our presence on the battlefield, our missions to interdict supply caches, safe houses, and known enemy locations are disrupting the enemy’s operations in our area. We know this through several sources of information and by battle tracking patterns of enemy activity. Several of the companies have executed some outstanding air assault missions this month that yielded great results. We will continue to put the pressure on the enemy as long as we work in this area.

Effects on the population and government: in our own assessment – excellent. The center of gravity in any insurgency is the population and whichever side controls the population will succeed. We engage the population in our area daily. The people tell us that since we arrived, they feel safer, they feel like we are actually there to help them, and that life is getting better overall. In our area, we went from zero community support projects under the previous unit to 42 planned projects – many of which have already been started. The people of the area are presented daily with the evidence that cooperation with the coalition brings benefits to them and their families.

And, as always, at the “tip of the spear” on all of these endeavors are the Soldiers of this great battalion. They work incredibly long hours each day but they have never failed to accomplish anything they were asked to do. Their spirits, their morale, their incredibly patriotic dedication to

duty are the hallmarks to their profession that will leave lasting impressions upon the people we interact with daily.

The Soldiers of the Regular battalion are doing outstanding work over here and you should be proud of them all. Until next month, thanks for your great support to the battalion, and may God continue to bless America.

— Command Sergeant Major Richard Beal (Regular 7)



*Command Sergeant Major Wells and Command Sergeant Major Beal
Outside of the Battalion TOC on FOB FALCON*

A COMPANY – GATOR

The past month has seen several different significant events for the Gators. I would like to start by welcoming the following new Gators and their families. PFC Joey Hacker and his wife came from HHC/1-22 IN. He has already earned positive recognition for his late night physical training session with another Soldier by the Division Command Sergeant Major. Also coming from HHC is SGT Brett Bussell, his wife, and their 2 year old daughter. SGT Bussell is a communications NCO and is a great addition to the company. SPC(P) Brian Keith is returning to A Company from a long stint in the battalion's personnel section. After outstanding service to the unit, it is great to have him and his family back with the Gators. SSG Timothy Mosteller is coming to A Company to fill the master gunner void that SSG(P) Jason Shields has held for the past year. PFC Jesse Ladner, PVT Brandon Coulter, and PVT Gregorio Garza are all new to the company and the Army – arriving only recently from Basic Training. Welcome to you all!

Sadly, the arrival of new Soldiers generally means the departure of others. PFC Carlos Raygada from 3rd Platoon accepted the position vacated by SPC(P) Keith in the battalion's personnel section at HHC. SSG(P) Shields of the Headquarters Platoon moved from the Gator Master Gunner to serve as the Battalion Master Gunner. As one of the Gators who have been with us the longest, it is tough to see him go. PFC Kelso of 1st Platoon and both SPC Cornette and PFC Camacho from 3rd Platoon – along with their families – all went to 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division to serve with them. Lastly, 1LT(P) David Claycomb of the Headquarters Platoon went to HHC to serve as the Assistant Civil Military Operations officer. Good luck in all your future endeavors.

We would like to congratulate the following Soldiers who have earned promotions this past month.

- PFC Heriberto Hernandez to SPC
- PFC Gary Johnson to SPC
- PFC J Monahan to SPC
- PFC Micheal Pittenger to SPC
- PFC Brian Todd to SPC
- PFC Bradley Williams to SPC
- PV2 Larry Huissen to PFC
- PV2 Daniel Toves to PFC
- PV2 James Clark to PFC
- PVT David Ruiz-Villaneuva to PV2
- PVT David Silbaugh to PV2

We also want to recognize the following Soldiers who were recommended for promotion at our most recent promotion board. Soon they will be rewarded for their hard work with additional stripes on their collar.

- SGT Gercaín Garcia to SSG
- SGT Ronald Wycoff to SSG
- SGT Mark Little to SSG
- SPC Craig Steiner to SGT

On April Fools Day, we awarded several Good Conduct Medals – they are awarded for three consecutive years of error-free service. Congratulations to all the Gators who have provided commendable service to the nation.

- 1SG Rohan McDermott
- SFC Gilbert Nail
- SSG William Cole
- SSG(P) Miguel De Losantos
- SSG Neil Floyd
- SSG Gilbert Lopez
- SSG Michael Schneider
- SSG Kevin Voll
- SGT Matthew Brown
- SGT Thomas Brown
- SGT Ryan Curry
- SGT Cody Hoefer
- SGT Roy Lewis
- SGT Mark Little
- SGT Ian McNabb
- SGT Jason Payne
- SGT Rudy Rosalez
- CPL David Cummings
- CPL Ryan Meador
- CPL(P) Craig Steiner
- CPL Christopher Portillo
- SPC Robert Abdallah
- SPC Rodger Kelly
- SPC Alain Morin
- SPC James Thompson

SGT Robert Brown earned recent recognition as the Special Troops Battalion NCO of the month of March, and maintained his performance by triumphantly taking NCO of the Quarter honors as well. He has put a great deal of effort into preparing for these two boards and was handsomely rewarded.

The month of March passed rather quickly as the tempo keeps us busy each and every day. We have been sending the Special Troops Battalion battle squads home on environmental leave, so their absence requires some careful juggling of personnel to provide escort service to the Division staff. We have also been rotating them through fixed site security to give them a break from the battle squad mission. 2nd and 3rd Platoons have swapped missions once again, with 2nd Platoon now providing fixed site security and 3rd Platoon accomplishing the battle squad missions. I think this monthly rotation enables each platoon to maintain its focus on combat operations. Each platoon establishes a weekly training plan that improves on their common infantryman skills. In general, they have been training on map reading, marksmanship, physical fitness, foot-marching, calling for indirect fire, first aid, weapons familiarization, and dismounted

patrolling. Maintenance of individual and unit equipment, as well as skill training on battle squad missions, security missions, and detainee operations also dominate an already busy schedule.

One of the weekly events that we have established is the selection of a Gator of the Week. The award is presented to the Soldier in the company who has made a notable contribution to his or her mission. The past recipients are PVT David Ruiz-Villaneuva for his professionalism and dedication as a battle squad driver, CPL Cesar Arroyo for his diligence in maintaining his platoon's vehicles, SGT Tran for her commitment to safe and secure detainee operations, and SSG Gilbert Lopez for transporting a group of staff officers to an important meeting when several other VIP's arrived late for the same meeting. Thanks for all your hard work.

—Captain Troy Parrish (Gator 6)



First Lieutenant Thelen and First Lieutenant Sabia Relax on FOB LIBERTY



Team Six—Private First Class Scott, Captain Parrish, and Specialist Ruiz



Corporal Cummings and Private First Class Mayo on FOB LIBERTY



Sergeant Cradeur Treats a Simulated Casualty During a Training Exercise on FOB LIBERTY

B COMPANY – BEAR

I hope this letter finds you and yours well. The Soldiers of B Company continued to perform in an exemplary manner over the past month. We were reminded of the cost of our freedom as we suffered the loss of Private First Class Sean Tharp on March 28th. He was a young, silent warrior whose memory we will carry with us for the rest of our lives. Our thoughts and prayers remain with Sean and his family. His memory – and the memory of others before us – will continue to fuel our desire to achieve noble works and overcome our enemies. The company gathered with Soldiers from D Company, to whom 3rd Platoon is attached, on April 1st to celebrate his life, service, and to say goodbye.

Continuing the mission for which PFC Tharp and many others have sacrificed, the company conducted several successful operations this past month. Among these were two air assault operations. For many Soldiers, this was a new experience and one they will not soon forget. Our most notable operation involved the discovery of an extremely large ammunition cache by the Soldiers of 1st Platoon. The Soldiers spent over a day and a half in a tireless effort to unearth all of the potentially lethal materiel. The cache included nearly one thousand mortar rounds of various sizes, rockets, and other ordnance. This will surely help to make the area safer in the future. The blast created by the controlled detonation of these materials could be felt over ten kilometers away.

Congratulations to SFC Vernon Wippert and his wife, on the birth of their son on March 21st.

We would like to congratulate the following Soldiers who have earned promotions this past month.

- SPC Armando Clark to SGT
- SPC Jeremy Sanders to SGT
- CPL Rodrock Vinson to SGT
- PFC Michael Beal to SPC

I'd also like to congratulate the following Soldiers on their decision to continue their enlistment in the Army. We thank them and their families for their continued commitment and sacrifice.

- SGT Michael Benton
- SGT Armando Clark
- SGT Jason Gibson
- SGT Continental Pulou
- SPC Jason Kugler
- SPC David Schobey

Finally, we said goodbye to Bear 5 – 1LT Chris Bluhm – this past month. After eight months of service to the Bears, he is to assume duties as the Signal Officer for the 4th Support Battalion stationed at CAMP TAJI. No one worked harder in the first three months in Iraq. The XO job is often a thankless one – if he does his job right, the XO truly works for every Soldier in the company to make sure he has what he needs to accomplish his mission. 1LT Bluhm did just this and we will miss him.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers for our Soldiers.

—Captain Matthew Weber (Bear 6)



Private Second Class Sean D. Tharp



Sergeant Benton of 1st Platoon Continues to Dig for Enemy Weapons and Munitions while Specialist Suitt Looks On

C COMPANY – CHAOS

Chaos Soldiers have continued to serve very effectively for the unit to which we're currently assigned – 2nd Battalion of the 502nd Infantry. Our Soldiers have a very tough job to do in very austere conditions, but they are a motivated bunch who are taking the fight to the enemy every day...and winning. You have much to be proud about your Chaos Soldier.

Current operations at the Water Treatment Facility have proved to be quite effective. While conducting routine patrols recently, Chaos managed to uncover a rather large insurgent weapons cache. The finding of the weapons cache not only provided the company with a plethora of information regarding enemy tactics, but it significantly reduced the enemy's ability to attack coalition forces in our area of operations. Continued presence in the area combined with our Soldiers' situational awareness is a key factor that has changed the area our Soldiers inhabit.

Congratulations to SPC Kelley Martin who most recently reenlisted for 6 years. The Commanding General of the Fourth Infantry Division reenlisted SPC Martin at the 4ID

Headquarters located at CAMP LIBERTY. Reenlistment has been a priority of Chaos Company over the past few months. Despite the tough road ahead, the company strives to keep the Soldiers aware of the importance of their sacrifice to their country. The command is extremely grateful to the Soldiers and their families for their continued support. Congratulations are also due to SSG Alan Meeks, SGT Scott Borawski, and SPC Rey Aguilar for having reenlisted in previous months while deployed.

Chaos would also like to give special notice of the recent promotion of 1LT Justin Twombly. As the platoon leader, Justin was promoted while conducting operations. In addition to being promoted, 1LT Twombly and his crew also distinguished themselves by firing the first tank main gun round at insurgent forces. As the gunner, CPL Carl Zachary effectively engaged an enemy mortar tube with a HEAT round. His quick acquisition and proper identification of enemy forces is just one example of the professionalism and lethality of the Soldiers of the company.

—Captain John Robertson (Chaos 6)



A Chaos Tank Overwatches an Enemy Avenue of Approach along the Euphrates River



Captain Robertson Smiles with a Local Girl



Soldiers of C Company Pose with Local Children After Delivering Humanitarian Assistance Supplies



Tanks Perform Security Operations near Patrol Base Warrior

D COMPANY – DEATH DEALER

Happy Easter to all the families back home from the Soldiers of Delta Company! I would like to start off by thanking all the families and friends of the Death Dealers for the love and support you continue to provide us during this deployment.

The Company has been moving at full speed in our operations throughout the Dealer area of operations. The Soldiers have been doing an outstanding job on the long, difficult missions they conduct on a daily basis. The platoons adapt to their task and keep the enemy on its heels with their focused patrols. The Division Commander, MG James Thurman, has even commented on the dedication and hard work each of the Soldiers continues to display during the deployment.

The weather in Iraq is staring to heat up and we are already longing for the days of the cooler winter. The Soldiers have been drinking plenty of water to acclimate themselves and prevent hot weather injuries. Special thanks go out to our Soldiers who reenlisted this month. SSG Christopher Flagg, SGT Gary Cooper, SGT Jason Gibson, and SGT David Rudnick all decided to continue to serve their country once we return to the states. Our bonds continue to grow as each of our teams relies on every Soldiers' strengths which make us a stronger family.

The Company's hard work is evident by the population's support of our actions in each of the towns. We have fixed all of the IED holes along a major route in our area that allows both the local population and our patrols to travel more safely. Work has begun on three of the six schools in our area and the Iraqi children show their support to the Soldiers as we walk through the towns. I am so proud at how well our team has been operating and I know that the enemy is afraid every time they see one of our patrols approach their position.

Please continue to keep praying for our great Soldiers as they approach the hot summer days here in Iraq.

—Captain Jared Rudacille (Dealer 6)



1st Platoon Poses for a Picture on FOB FALCON Before Conducting an Operation in Arab Jubour



Captain Rudacille Briefs Major General Thurman as Lieutenant Colonel Osborne Watches



D Company Loads Helicopters for Early Morning Extraction after a Successful Mission along the Tigris River



Staff Sergeant Kirkland Pulls Security for the Headquarters Platoon While on a Dismounted Patrol in Hawar Rajab



2nd Platoon Poses in Front of Some of the Munitions Found During an Air Assault Operation along the Tigris River

E COMPANY – KILLER

It is a privilege for me to be able to keep the family members and friends who support our Soldiers updated on what our company has accomplished over the past 30 days. I would like to start by thanking the spouses and friends that support our company Family Readiness Group (FRG). They are the ones who help others get through this deployment by taking care of the issues that arise back home. This has allowed the Soldiers to continue to focus on the mission at hand knowing that their family members are being taken care of. I would like to personally thank Mrs. Kimberly Parker and the other spouses for the hours they have volunteered, the phone calls they have made, and the meetings they have attended to help others get information or address their problems.

This month, I am saddened to say goodbye to our current Executive. He has served as a great leader and role model in our company. From running Bradley Gunnery Ranges as the Officer in Charge at Fort Hood, deploying the company to the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, California, and deploying the company in support of OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM, Josh has always been a hard worker who got the mission done and took the time to take care of Soldiers. He has always led by example putting in the time to stay in good physical shape and by treating all Soldiers with respect regardless of their rank or position. He is a great leader who will be missed. We have been told he will be moving up to work at the Brigade level, and he will

undoubtedly become an asset for that team as he has been for our company. We wish him well in all of his future endeavors. I am personally thankful to have an XO who was willing to do the less exciting tasks of covering down on battalion-level meetings, coordinating for all the requirements and resources to support each mission, and who stayed on top of maintenance, supply and other areas so that we did not experience any issues.

I would like to also highlight a few other special moments over the past month. SGT Ahmad Smith and SGT Johnnie Wilson – both from SAPPER Platoon – reenlisted to continue to lead our Soldiers and stay with our team. SGT Ray Andrade, who has already been leading his squad and doing great work with the Iraqi Army, was promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant while SPC Jose Lopez, supporting the Brigade engineers, was promoted to Sergeant. I want to thank these Soldiers for their great work and consistent performance. They are the reasons we continue to be successful every day.

I would like to close by saying that we are at the quarter mile mark of our race. We are never sure what we will find around the next curve, but we do know that the energy we expend getting our mission accomplished will be worth it in the end. I pray that our Soldiers continue to conduct their missions safely each day. Each of our subordinate leaders has a few notes below. Thank you.

—Captain Patsky Gomez (Killer 6)

Friends and family, it has been another good month at FOB STRIKER. The men are motivated and continue to do outstanding work. I hope that everyone had a good spring break and enjoyed the time with their children. We continue to send Soldiers home for environmental leave and it looks like we get about ten slots per month. This is a great opportunity for our Soldiers to relax and enjoy some time with their friends and families and not have to think about their next mission. The support that I have seen from the family members has been outstanding. Although many Soldiers are able to call home, there is something about receiving a letter or package that brings a smile to everyone's face. Once again, thanks for the support and have a great Easter!

—First Sergeant Willie Hogan (Killer 7)

Hello friends and family of E Company. This has been an eventful month as we continue to help improve our area of operations. We have seen the Iraqi Army transform and start to take control of their area – allowing the men of E Company to stand back, mentor and coach as opposed to executing all the missions themselves.

The company continues to evolve itself as the leadership changes continue. This month we received a new platoon leader – 2LT Jon Chychota will assume his duties from 1LT Nate Rawlings. During the transition 1LT Rawlings will be taking over for me as the XO. I have great confidence and respect for 1LT Rawlings – he is one of the best officers I have worked with and I know he will succeed in fulfilling the duties as the XO. It is a sad month for me as I prepare to leave the men of E Company. It is nice to work with such a great group of Soldiers who constantly perform their jobs with the highest level of professionalism and competence. I am proud to be a member of E Company and will continue to be as I leave, and will be forever grateful to the men of this company for helping me grow and become a better leader.

Enjoy the change of season as we move into spring and stay optimistic as every change of season brings us that much closer to coming home. Once again thank you all for the continued

support of your Soldiers while they are gone, and remember to keep them in your prayers as they pray for the difficulties that you face.

—Captain Joshua Bohannon (Killer 5)

The month has come and gone and the Soldiers of Headquarters Platoon keep doing outstanding work. We have had a great month with the promotion of two of our Soldiers. SGT Jose Lopez was promoted from the rank of Corporal to Sergeant. This is a large stepping stone in the progression of his career. As he joins the ranks of the Noncommissioned Officer leadership, he will continue to lead his men in the execution of demanding missions. SPC Michael Grossman was also promoted from the rank of Private First Class to Specialist. SPC Grossman has done an outstanding job as a HMMWV gunner and his attention to detail and knowledge of his weapon system have aided him on every mission. All of the Soldiers continue to build upon lessons learned since we have been here to make systems we have emplaced better and more functional. I would like to wish everyone a happy Easter and a blessed spring. God Bless.

—Sergeant First Class Donnell Clayton (Killer 3)

March has been another busy and productive month for the Sapper Platoon. The Sappers have recently expanded the scope of our operations to include conducting mounted patrols of major supply routes into Baghdad. Along with the increase in patrolling, Sapper elements are still constantly working with the Iraqi Army leadership to develop their NCOs and Soldiers. The platoon has done an excellent job in adapting to changes being made throughout the company. At the start of the month PFC Mike Peugh rejoined the Sapper Platoon from Headquarters as a dismounted Soldier. PFC Peugh also stood out this month as the first member of the Sapper team to receive his Combat Action Badge. SGT Ahmad Smith and SGT Johnnie Wilson both showed their commitment to the Army by reenlisting for another term. Congratulations also go out to SPC Troy Smith and PFC Nicholas McCabe for their recent promotions on April 1st.

March also started the leave cycle within the Sapper elements. At press time, SPC Aileron Rdiall and SPC Brendon Crouteau are back in the States while SGT Baldemar Frausto and SPC Troy Smith have already returned from their much deserved break. Overall, the Sappers are all in good spirits and doing an excellent job in accomplishing and adapting to the numerous tasks at hand. I hope everyone is doing well and God Bless!

—Second Lieutenant James Hall (Sapper 1)

The Soldiers of Dogpound remained busy throughout an eventful March. We continue to conduct patrols aimed at securing sections of a major highway leading into Baghdad and work with the Iraqi Army to train and develop their NCOs and Soldiers. We saw new additions to the platoon and changes that allowed the Soldiers to focus on different aspects of our complex mission.

The month's highlights began with two old hands coming (and in one case, coming back) to the platoon. SPC(P) James Murray and SGT Ed Buendia joined the platoon. SPC (P) Murray comes to us from Headquarters where he has served as the commander's driver and will serve as a team leader. SGT Eduardo Buendia comes from Headquarters as well and has been serving as my gunner. Welcome to both! SSG Ray Andrade, known affectionately as "Sergeant Ray" to the Iraqi Soldiers, was promoted to Staff Sergeant – a well deserved promotion for a fine young NCO.

Additional changes saw the reemergence of the armored M113s for some daytime patrols and time shifts as SFC Harry Williams and his Bradley section covered the graveyard shift. Their actions ensured that the roads were clear for coalition forces all night long. SSG Andrade's section has continued to make great strides working with the Iraqi Army, while SSG Parker's and my sections worked to improve the performance of Iraqi NCOs. In all cases, the Iraqi Soldiers have shown a dedication to duty and desire to learn. We have supported missions to clean up sections of the highway as part of the overall security and reconstruction effort, including one mission to remove a monument to Saddam Hussein. In classic Dogpound fashion, we needed only some C4, our engineer skills, and a little imagination to ensure the monument was no longer an eyesore for the people of Southern Baghdad.

This will be my last newsletter as the platoon leader since we are welcoming 2LT Jon Chychota as the new Dogpound 1. 2LT Chychota took over as platoon leader on 10 April and quickly showed his intelligence, desire to learn and quick sense of humor. 2LT Chychota grew up in Kansas, the son of an Army Field Artillery officer, and graduated from the University of Kansas in December 2003. He comes to us having completed the longest, and one of the most impressive stretches of training I have ever seen. After completing Basic Training and Officer Candidate School, LT Chychota completed the Engineer Officer Basic Course and the Sapper Leader Course at Fort Leonard Wood before heading to Fort Benning where he completed Airborne and Ranger Schools. LT Chychota is an outstanding young officer, and the Soldiers of Dogpound are in good hands. On a personal note, I want to thank all of the Soldiers and families of Dogpound Platoon for making this past year one of the best of my life. It would take much more than a paragraph to properly thank you all for the impact you have had on my life through your kindness, generosity, and of course, for the trust you placed in me by sending your husbands, sons and brothers into combat under my charge. Please continue to support the Dogpound Soldiers as they accomplish wonderful things here in Baghdad.

I wish everyone a Happy Easter! God bless and take care.

—First Lieutenant Nate Rawlings (Dogpound 1)

This past month has not been much different than the last one – the team has been very busy performing maintenance on our equipment. We continue to put in long hours in our motor pool and it really reflects because our Bradleys and HMMWVs keep meeting their mission requirements every day. I want to congratulate SPC Lorenzo Franklin on the birth of his newborn and for reenlisting this past month. SGT Maria Rodriguez and her Soldiers continue providing excellent support for the BTB.

A challenge for us this month has been compensating for the loss of one of our maintenance tents. It was completely destroyed by one of the unforgiving storms in our area. Although difficult at times, we continue to support our engineers while putting our motor pool back together. The NCOs and Soldiers of our team have maintained their high spirits and they know that this is really just a small bump in our operations.

SPC Franklin and PFC Martin Ferrifino are getting to enjoy some well deserved down time in April as they go on environmental leave. SPC Nathan Kaelin will soon be taking some time off as well and he is planning to spend some time with his folks back in Washington State. I want to thank all of our Soldiers for the superb job they do every day and to all the families back home for the letters and care packages that we look forward to every month. Thank you and God bless.

—Staff Sergeant Luis Mojica (Killer Wrench)

Company Mailing Address

Name

E/1-22 IN

1-75 CAV

FOB STRIKER

APO AE 09398



First Lieutenant Rawlings and Second Lieutenant Chychota on FOB STRIKER



First Lieutenant Rawlings and Staff Sergeant Parker Revel in Reconstruction



E Company Soldiers Bid Farewell to Captain Bohannon in the FOB STRIKER Motor Pool



Private First Class Peugh, Captain Bohannon, and Specialist Chavarrae Pose for a Picture



Sergeant Perez, Specialist Grossman, and Specialist Gandara Get Ready for an Upcoming Mission



The E CO Maintenance Team Poses for a Picture after Specialist Franklin's Reenlistment

E COMPANY/4TH SUPPORT BATTALION – ELIMINATOR

March was a busy month for the Eliminators. We are constantly growing as a team and establishing our role in Task Force 1-22 Infantry. About 1/3 of our Soldiers have taken environmental morale leave and have all returned refreshed and ready to move forward with our mission. Occasionally, we have the opportunity to send Soldiers on passes to the International Zone in Baghdad to enjoy a few days of down time. We continue to make our home better than we received it.

As our missions change, so does our interaction with the Iraqi populace. Our Soldiers have had the unique experience of helping an Iraqi Public Order Force establish a checkpoint to standard. Our Soldiers periodically inspect the checkpoint and give a hand to the Iraqis who are constantly trying to make their life and country better. Interacting with the Iraqi people and experiencing their culture have led us all to a better understanding of what we stand for and why we are here. To name a few accomplishments, our Soldiers have recovered over 25 vehicles; pushed critical supplies to forward troops several times a week, fixed over 60 combat vehicles, and emplaced blocking positions in order to deter Anti-Iraqi forces from transporting munitions across Baghdad.

We have had the opportunity to promote several Soldiers in the last month. The following Soldiers were promoted with an effective date of April 1, 2006:

- SSG John Huck to SFC
- PV2 Michael Martinez to PFC
- PVT Alexandria Gries to PV2

The following Eliminators' Birthdays will be celebrated on the 15th of April:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| • 1LT Joseph Baumbach | • SPC Michael Kruger |
| • SFC Damon Howard | • SPC Paul Nunez |
| • SFC Michael Roddy | • SPC Johnathan Page |
| • SGT Damion Dunbar | • SPC Manuel Rose |
| • SGT Timothy Lyon | • SPC James Weatherly |

- PFC Robert Green
- PFC Ryan Kiser

- PV2 Joshua Majestic

Everyday is different and our Soldiers are doing amazing things. You should be very proud of your Soldier. I think about what our Soldiers and their families give up everyday and thank you all for your support as we do our part in making Iraq a better place.

—Captain Jennifer McDonough (Eliminator 6)



S&T Soldiers Download Barriers to Begin Construction of an Iraqi Army Checkpoint



Specialist Dorrough Assists Local Motorists Along Highway 37



Specialist Weatherly Prepares for Another Mission



Staff Sergeant Johnson Welds Barriers Together to Block Enemy Movements in Our Area

HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY – HAMMER

It seems hard to believe that we have been gone for about four months now, but I assure you that the Soldiers of Hammer Company remain committed to ridding southern Baghdad of terrorists and insurgents and to improving the quality of life for the areas' inhabitants. Each day your husbands, sons, relatives, and friends make this place just a little better than it was before we arrived – and that is all anyone could ask of them. I am proud to command such fine Soldiers.

The Scout Platoon continued to provide the Personal Security Detachment (PSD) to the battalion commander, and served as his security element as he traveled the battlefield. They spend many hours out in the area of operations, talking to local political leaders, sheiks, and farmers, always trying to find out information on what the people need and how we can better help rid the area of terrorists. Our scouts and snipers attached to B and D Companies set up ambushes and observation posts that have proved highly effective in preventing the enemy from emplacing Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and have kept them from moving freely around the battlefield. The insurgents are constantly wondering if they are being watched by our Soldiers and this disrupts their ability to plan effective attacks against us.

The Mortar Platoon conducted many escort missions for the Explosive Ordinance Disposal (EOD) Team as they destroyed IEDs that our battalion continues to find. They have recently been assigned an area of operations and conduct daily patrols to disrupt enemy activity and to find out what the quality of life is like in their assigned villages. They have gained the trust of the people so that enemy activities are quickly reported. The local children also flock to them because they have been known to give out candy and soccer balls. Additionally, the mortars conducted several counterfire missions at enemy mortar positions that attacked our forces. They provide lethal, long-range fire support to the battalion and are extremely accurate.

The Medical Platoon continued to treat our wounded and helped keep the rest of us healthy through education and preventive medical procedures. We execute our missions with the confidence that our medics are superbly trained and will provide the best possible medical care should we require it.

The Bradley Fire Support Teams attached to each company made great progress this month by identifying basic needs in many villages and recommending projects to improve the quality of life of the people. Through their efforts the battalion has submitted 42 projects thus far that will enhance the local economies and increase the quality of life in each village tremendously.

The Fire and Effects Coordination Cell continues to support the battalion's scheme of maneuver delivering accurate and timely indirect fire as well as linking non-lethal assets to achieve the commander's desired effects. The digital fire mission processors – newly promoted SPC Jacob Lutje and PFC William Sifford – routinely answer and process both digital and voice calls for fire and report the data to the Tactical Operations Center. When they are not battle tracking fire missions, they serve as part of the FOB FALCON security force to protect friendly forces inside the compound. SFC Paul Nice and SFC Stephan Battiest work long hours both as both Battle NCOs and assisting the Fire Support Officer with fire planning.

2LT Matthew Parsons – our Targeting Officer – continues to work around the clock in the targeting process. He is responsible for collecting and analyzing patrol debriefs in conjunction with the Battalion Intelligence officer. Through their efforts, they develop target packets of high value individuals and locations that our battalion then conducts operations against to defeat Anti-Iraqi Forces. The Battalion Fire Support Officer, CPT Robert Stoffel, manages both lethal and non-lethal enablers. On the lethal side, he is responsible for advising the Battalion Commander

on the use of indirect fires, manages radar coverage, and coordinates with the Air Force Joint Tactical Air Controllers for close air support. Non-lethally, he develops talking points to be delivered to the local people to gain trust and confidence in the coalition and the Iraqi government.

The Command Group, Staff, and Headquarters Section – in addition to our normal duties – focus our efforts on interaction with local leaders, conducting village assessments, and preventing the outbreak of civil war. The staff works long hours, well past midnight on many nights. But it is this tireless effort and force of will that has provided the fuel for the small victories that we win everyday. In the short time our battalion has been in control of our area, we have significantly disrupted the enemy's plans and established promising, cooperative relationships with many sheiks and local leaders.

Congratulations to both SPC Earnest Adkins (S3) and SPC Kenneth England (Scouts) on their promotion to SGT. SGT Aaron Hildebrandt (Scouts) was also recently recommended for promotion to the rank of SSG.

Our admiration and thanks go to SGT John Dallier (Scouts) and his family for his continued dedicated service to and support of our nation by reenlisting.

We thank you for your prayers, support, and all the packages you send. We draw strength from knowing that you are behind us one hundred percent. We admire your handling of the tough tasks back home, and we are keenly aware that your sacrifices allow us to remain mission focused and "Steadfast and Loyal" to our cause. Thank you for all that you do to keep things going back in Texas. God bless you.

—Captain Craig Childs (Hammer 6)



*Private First Class Hartshorn Trains on the .50 caliber Machinegun at
FOB FALCON*



*Private First Class Neel and an Iraqi Soldier Work to Uncover an En-
emy Cache of Weapons and Munitions*



Sergeant Pollock Performs Security During a Halt



Specialist Adkins and Specialist England Are Promoted to Sergeant by Command Sergeant Major Beal and Sergeant Major Salinas

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

I submit to you that found within the pages of Holy Scripture we are given a tremendous promise of divine presence and protection. The Psalmist writes, *“He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.”* (Psalm 91:1) The rest of the text tells us how God protects and provides tremendous peace to those who call on His name. As we continue the mission here I constantly proclaim this message of hope and assurance of presence. God is proving Himself faithful to His word and many of us can see this on a regular basis. Belief is a powerful tool Soldiers can rely on to help them through the tough times when things are chaotic and confusing. This same belief also helps us become better with our families and friends. Sometimes life has a way of throwing curve balls our direction and we must find a way to swing the bat effectively.

As the chaplain, one of my missions is to help your loved ones learn and know how to convey this to families at home. Promises like this from Psalm 91 provide us with peace and assurance that we can play a good game in life. Many here rely on the promises from the Almighty and several of you back home rely on these same promises. Trusting in this promise of God is one way you can know God is watching over your loved one here in Iraq and it might help you sleep better at night. Other promises you can focus on are those made to each other before we left and those made since we have been here.

One of the things I tell our Soldiers is, “geographical separation does not mean emotional disengagement.” This means we must find ways to stay connected to each other. How are you staying connected? Relying on the promises of God and the promises made to each other are two ways this can be accomplished. Recall these promises; renew these promises and refresh your communication together by actively seeking to fulfill your promises to each other. This time apart will become much less stressful when we focus on how we can connect instead of how much we are apart. Until we meet again may God bless you and yours...

—Chaplain (Captain) John Hill

REENLISTMENTS

We continue to retain quality Soldiers in our Army through reenlistment. Reenlistment in a combat zone shows a great commitment to our nation and our Army...and the monetary bonuses are also tax free. Although the money is a nice incentive, our Soldiers continue to reenlist because they believe in what they are doing and want to be a part of something much larger than themselves. Our reenlistments continue to take place at various locations such as the palace in Baghdad to the patrol base in our area. We congratulate and thank the 18 Soldiers and their families that have reenlisted in the past 30 days. Their names are:

- SSG Christopher Flagg (D CO)
- SGT Michael Benton (B CO)
- SGT Armando Clark (B CO)
- SGT Gary Cooper (D CO)
- SGT John Dallier (HHC)
- SGT Jason Gibson (B CO)
- SGT Samuel Martinez (E/4 SB)
- SGT Continental Pulou (B CO)
- SGT David Rudnick (D CO)
- SGT Ahmad Smith (E CO)
- SGT Johnnie Wilson (E CO)
- SPC Paul Bennett (B CO)
- SPC Lorenzo Franklin (E/4 SB)
- SPC Jason Kugler (B CO)
- SPC Michael Lynch (E/4 SB)
- SPC John Riley (E/4 SB)
- SPC David Schobey (B CO)
- SPC James Weatherly (E/4 SB)



Major General Thuman Reenlists Sergeant Gibson, Sergeant Cooper, and Specialist Martin in the Division Headquarters



First Lieutenant Goodwin Congratulates Specialist Bennett After Reenlisting on FOB FALCON



First Lieutenant Yamali Reenlists Specialist Lynch and Specialist Weatherly on the Balcony of the Al Faw Palace in Baghdad



First Lieutenant Hughes Congratulates Staff Sergeant Flagg After Reenlisting on FOB FALCON



First Lieutenant Hughes Reenlists Specialist Riley on Top of an M88A2 Recovery Vehicle



Captain Weber Congratulates Sergeant Pulou After Reenlisting on FOB FALCON



Captain Weber Reenlists Sergeant Benton at Patrol Base 2



Major General Thurman Congratulates Sergeant Rudnick After Reenlisting on FOB FALCON

PICTURES FROM AROUND THE AREA...



1st Squad of 3rd Platoon, B Company Help Local Nationals Move Barriers in Hawar Rajab



Captain Childs and an Interpreter



Iraqi and American Soldiers Also Patrol the More Desolate Regions of Our Area



Three Local Girls Watch with Interest as We Conduct Operations



Iraqi Army Soldiers Conduct Marksmanship Training Under the Careful Watch of Our Military Training Team



Iraqi Army Soldiers Help Us Secure the Al Rashid Nahia by Conducting Dismounted Patrols



Corporal Petty Treats a Young Boy While on a Dismounted Patrol in Hawar Rajab



Iraqi Army Soldiers Monitor a Local Mosque for the Preaching of Anti-Coalition Rhetoric



Iraqi Army Soldiers Patrol Along a Route Where We Frequently Find Improvised Explosive Devices



Our Efforts to Help the People Include Fixing Holes in the Roads that Have Been Caused by Enemy Improvised Explosive Devices



Iraqi Army Soldiers Question Military-Aged Males During a Recent Operation



Captain McDonough and Captain Weber at Patrol Base 2



Iraqi Army Soldiers Receive a Weapons Firing Range Briefing Before Being Issued Ammunition to Train



Local Women and Children Move Towards a Temporary Site to Receive Medical Care by Iraqi and American Medics



Sergeant Etter Waiting to Continue Movement on a Patrol

HISTORY OF THE 1ST BATTALION, 22ND INFANTRY REGIMENT

The 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment was originally constituted on May 3rd, 1861 in the Regular Army as Companies A and I, 2nd Battalion, 13th Infantry. It organized in May 1865 as Companies A and I, 22nd Infantry.

Companies A and I, 22nd Infantry consolidated on May 4th, 1869 and the consolidated unit was designated as Company A, 22nd Infantry. The 22nd Infantry was assigned to the 4th Infantry Division on March 24, 1923. The unit was then inactivated on June 30, 1927 at Fort MacPherson, GA.

The unit reactivated on June 1, 1940 at Fort McClellan, AL before inactivating again at Camp Butner, NC on March 1, 1946 upon conclusion of World War II.

The battalion reactivated on July 15, 1947 at Fort Ord, CA. It reorganized and was redesignated

on April 1, 1957 as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battle Group, 22nd Infantry and remained assigned to the 4th Infantry Division. It was reorganized and redesignated on October 1, 1963 as the 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry. It later inactivated in August of 1984 at Fort Carson, CO.

The unit reactivated in May 1986 at Fort Drum, NY and was assigned to the 10th Mountain Division (Light). Relieved from this assignment in February of 1996, the 1st Battalion was reassigned to the 4th Infantry Division at Fort Hood, TX.

Soldiers from the battalion have served in combat in nearly every campaign in our nation's history including the Indian Wars, the Philippine Insurrection, World War I, World War II, Vietnam, Somalia, Bosnia, Haiti, and Iraq. The men and women of this battalion continue to serve the nation and uphold the standards established by our predecessors.

Regulars, by God! Deeds, Not Words



1ST BATTALION, 22ND INFANTRY MAILING ADDRESS

Soldier's Rank and Name
___ Company/1-22 IN
Unit# 42506
APO AE 09361-2506

REAR DETACHMENT COMMANDER
CPT WARREN LITHERLAND

REAR DETACHMENT NCOIC
SFC HERNANDEZ

Phone (254) 288-2840

The Rear Detachment Office is located in Building
10002 on Battalion Avenue at Ft Hood—across from
Bennett Health Clinic